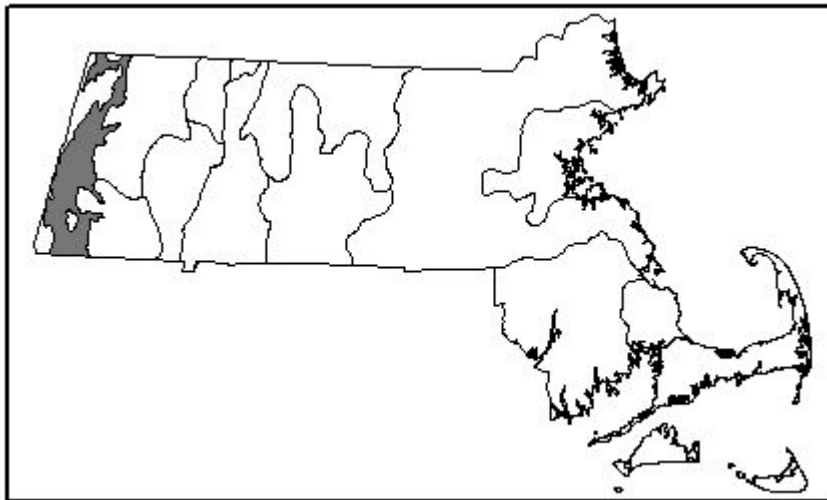


**Community Name:** YELLOW OAK DRY CALCAREOUS FOREST

**Community Code:** CT1B2A0000

**SRANK:** S2



**Concept:** A dry, often open, oak - sugar maple forest with rich understory on shallow rock.

**Environmental Setting:** Well - drained slopes or low ridges underlain with calcareous rocks. The community tends to be more abundant in southern parts of the calcareous areas of the state (*Berkshire County*), and is more restricted to south and southwest facing slopes in more northern parts of *Berkshire County*.

**Vegetation Description:** Yellow oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) is characteristic of this community, and primarily occurs in it in Massachusetts. It grows mixed with sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white oak (*Q. alba*) and black oak (*Q. velutina*), and associated with white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*). Scattered white pines (*Pinus strobus*) and red oak (*Q. rubra*) occur regularly. Hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and, in the more southerly sites, bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), are subcanopy trees that grow in the fairly open understory, with occasional prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*). The herbaceous layer tends to be rich in species, including four-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias quadrifolia*), sickle-pod (*Arabis canadensis*), thread-leaved sedge (*Carex eburnea*), broad-leaved ragwort (*Senecio obovatus*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*). In open (disturbed) areas, red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) may be common, often with non-native species. Although black maple (*Acer nigrum*) is associated with this community in the Midwest, it seldom occurs in this community in Massachusetts where black maple tends to be associated with moister conditions.

**Associations:**

**Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** The fauna tends to be that of generally dry forests, but with no species restricted to the Yellow Oak Dry Calcareous forest.

**Associated Rare Plants:**

LESPEDeza VIOLACEA	VIOLET BUSH-CLOVER	- WL
PENSTEMON HIRSUTUS	HAIRY BEARDTONGUE	E
POA LANGUIDA	DROOPING SPEARGRASS	E
QUERCUS MUEHLENBERGII	YELLOW OAK	SC
VIBURNUM RAFINESQUIANUM	DOWNY ARROWWOOD	T
WALDSTEINIA FRAGARIOIDES	BARREN STRAWBERRY	SC

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

**Associated Rare Animals:**

NONE KNOWN

**Examples with  
Public Access:**

Appalachian Trail, Sheffield; Bartholomew's Cobble Reservation (TTOR), Sheffield.

**Threats:**

Exotic species do well in disturbed forests - Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) shrub honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), and other invasive species can displace native species and change the structure of forests.

**Management Needs:**

Exotic control on best examples.

**Synonyms**

**USNVC/TNC:**

Acer saccharum - Quercus muehlenbergii Forest Alliance -- Acer saccharum - Quercus muehlenbergii Forest [Provisional] [CEGL005010]; OR Quercus muehlenbergii - (Acer saccharum) Forest Alliance -- Quercus muehlenbergii Woodland Alliance -- Quercus muehlenbergii / Andropogon gerardii - Anemone cylindrica Woodland [CEGL006230] OR [CEGL003704] Quercus muehlenbergii Woodland [Placeholder].

**MA (old name):**

in part SNE DRY RICH FOREST ON ACIDIC/CIRCUMNEUTRAL BEDROCK OR TILL - or aspects of CNE mesic hardwood forest on acidic till.

**ME:**

Not described.

**NH:**

Not described.

**VT:**

Part of: Transition Hardwoods, and Related to: Temperate Calcareous Outcrop Community and Transition Hardwoods Woodland.

**NY:**

includes part of Oak openings; included within Appalachian oak-hickory forest, Limestone woodland.

**CT:**

Acer saccharum - Quercus muehlenbergii forests [no communities defined].

**RI:**

Not described.

**Weatherbee:**

Dry Calcareous Oak / Conifer Forest Community.

**Author:**

P. Swain

**Date:**

8/4/99 forests